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JUL 01 2008

PATENT APPLICATION
USSN 10/591,198
Attorney Docket No.: VMP-40009

Amendment to the Claims

Complete listing of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) Water soluble salt cores manufactured by compacting a mixture of water soluble salts and binder under pressure and by subsequently subjecting said compacted mixture to a thermal treatment, characterized in that the binder is an inorganic phosphate or a mixture of inorganic phosphates with a fraction of between 0.5 and 10 by wt. % of said mixture and between approximately 1 and 10% by weight of a parting agent comprising graphite, the soluble salts are sintered and compressed at approximately 200 degrees C and heating of the salt cores in the thermal treatment is to a temperature under 700 degrees C without being subjected to outgassing.
2. (Original) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the binder contains a fraction of an inorganic borate.
3. (Cancelled) ~~The water soluble cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the mixture contains a fraction of between >0 and 10 wt. % of a parting agent.~~
4. (Previously Presented) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a monoaluminium phosphate.
5. (Previously Presented) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a boron phosphate.
6. (Previously Presented) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a sodium polyphosphate.
7. (Previously Presented) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1 characterized in that thermal treatment occurs at temperatures of less than 730 °C.

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